



***firefighter safety  
... and the codes  
  
is there a  
connection?***

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# How are we doing?

- Number of firefighter fatalities (excluding WTC) is down 59% since 1977
- Contributing Factors:
  - Reduction in number of fires
  - PPE improvements
  - Training enhancements
  - Better fireground management
  - Physical Fitness Programs

# How are we doing?

WHILE THE NUMBER OF  
FATALITIES HAS DROPPED BY  
59% SINCE 1977, THE  
NUMBER OF STRUCTURE  
FIRES HAS DROPPED BY 54%

# How are we doing?

- The rate of deaths attributable to heart attacks have dropped by 27% since 1977, from 2.6 per 100,000 fires to 1.9 per 100,000 fires
- The rate of deaths from non-heart attack causes *outside* of structures dropped from 1.4 to .5 deaths per 100,000 fires, a **64% reduction!**
- The rate of deaths from traumatic causes *inside* structure fires **increased over 60%** from 1.8 per 100,000 fires to 3 per 100,000 fires

# How are we doing?

While structure fires DECREASED by 54%, the rate of Firefighter fatalities attributable to traumatic causes inside structures INCREASED by 60%













# What are we doing about it?

- Many code provisions address firefighter safety issues already.
- Firefighters/Fire Chiefs must become engaged in the fire prevention
- Fire Service has full and complete access to the International Code Council processes



# What are we doing about it?

- The International Fire Code includes the following language under Section 101.3, titled “Intent”:
  - “The purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements. . . and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations”

# What are we doing about it?

- Firefighter safety is enhanced by adopting and applying the IFC by:
  - Reducing the number of fires that occur
  - Limiting the fire spread when fires do occur, and
  - Providing specific protections for firefighters engaged in interior operations and other suppression activities

# Specific Provisions:

- 3.11 – Abandoned Premises
- 3.15.2.1 - Clearance below ceilings
- 401.3.1 - False Alarms
- 407.2 – MSDS Required on site
- 407.6 & 407.6 - HMIS & HMMP



# Specific Requirements

- Chapter 5: Fire Service Features
  - Fire Apparatus Access Roads
  - Access to Stairways and Roofs
  - Trap Doors
  - Shaftways
  - Pitfalls
  - Fire Command Center







# Specific Requirements

- Section 604 – Emergency Power
- Section 606 – Refrigeration Systems
- Section 607 – Elevator Recall
- Section 905 – Standpipe Systems
- Section 907.2.12.3 – Fire Department Communications System
- Section 909 – Smoke Control
- Section 910 – Smoke & Heat Vents



# Case Study: High Piled Stock Occupancies:

- Fire Department Access Roadways
  - Must be within 150 ft. of all portions of the exterior of the building
  - No exception for sprinklered buildings
- Fire Department Access Doors
  - Every 100 ft. or portion thereof
  - Ladder access to doors unacceptable
  - Only approved locking hardware



# Case Study: High Piled Stock Occupancies:

- Smoke & Heat Vents
- Draft Curtains
- Maximum Pile Dimensions
- Maximum Pile Heights













**Firefighter Safety is more than working out and wearing your PPE properly.**

**If you aren't applying the standards that your community has adopted to make buildings safer for the public, and the firefighters, you're risking the lives of your neighbors, and your brothers & sisters in the fire service.**

**Code enforcement may not be as sexy as fire suppression – but it provides for a much higher return on your tax dollar, and saves immeasurable expenses in workers' compensation, pain & suffering, and community angst from firefighter deaths & injuries**







Fire Auction

# ***ENGAGE***

